

PAYMENT OF HALL CASE BILLS VOTED WITH RELUCTANCE

105.62
Jan 22
+ 100
Smalley of Somerset Board
Bitterly Denounces

Beet's Bill

ACTION MANDATORY BY PARKER EDICT

(Special Service of Home News)

SOMERBILLE, Jan. 22.—Despite a vigorous protest by Freeholder Clarence I. Smalley of North Plainfield, the Board of Chosen Freeholders voted yesterday afternoon to pay the bill of T. Chaplin Beet, private detective who was used to watch the jury and constable during the Hall-Mills trial. The amount of the bill was \$1,800.

"It's a crime, in my opinion, to ask this board to pay \$1,800 to have our own constables and jury-men watched," Smalley declared. "I don't want to go to jail but I'll be damned if I'll ever sign Beet's bill."

Beet, who was present at the hearing, was told in plain words exactly how the Freeholders felt about his charge. After a verbal combat with the board he departed in indignant haste to telephone to his attorney. After the discussion had gone on for several minutes Freeholder George Layton offered a motion that the board reconsider the action taken last Friday when the counsel, Senator Clarence E. Case, was instructed to go to Trenton and argue, before the supreme court, the issuance of a writ of mandamus asked by Beet compelling the payment of his account. Freeholder Layton said that carrying out the provisions of the motion would have been sending good money after bad as Justice Charles W. Parker had approved the bill and there was no recourse. The motion was passed, Freeholder Smalley not voting. Three other bills, which the Freeholders were loath to pay, were approved, as they came under the same category as the Beet charge. These were, Joseph Faurot, fingerprint expert, \$3,400; John C. Dengler, stenographer, \$11,735; and August Hartkorn, handwriting expert, \$935.

The Board of Commissioners of Raritan asked that First avenue, which leads from Somerset street, to the North Branch Highway, be taken into the county system. They presented a petition, bearing more than 300 names. Director Frank Remsen told the delegation that the board has taken about sixty-three miles of roads into the county system and that not all of them have received attention. Until this time comes the board does not wish to add any more mileage. The petition was received and the commissioners informed that their request would receive serious consideration.

Freeholder Layton brought up the matter of the way in which insuring of county property is handled and, upon his recommendation Director Remsen appointed an insurance committee, with himself as chairman. Freeholder Layton said the insurance, which is one of the biggest items on the budget, needed looking into and that some member of the board should be responsible for the way in which it is given out to insurance men.